

REPLY TO:

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20015

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for **Residential Setting – Supportive Housing Initiative** in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is **Baltimore County Government**, located at 400 Washington Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204.

The project will connect Baltimore County's goals of reducing opioid related deaths to the statewide overdose reduction plan and associate the goals to a request for \$750,000 to increase crisis beds and supplement existing supportive housing resources in Baltimore County. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Baltimore County currently has 20 mental health crisis beds. More of these beds are needed and additional funds could allow our county to increase these beds by 20%. Currently Hospital Emergency Departments are not able to discharge patients to crisis beds on a regular basis because they are typically full at all times. Current service providers supporting crisis are not able to take referrals from homeless shelters. This results in many people with experiencing a mental health crisis' and/or active substance use to remain in shelter or stay unhoused on the street. This puts the person with the mental health and substance use need at risk, as well as the public at large who may encounter them. Additionally supportive housing options are severely limited in the county. When someone is ready to be discharged from a short-term crisis bed or a longer-term (30-60 days) residential treatment bed, housing options are extremely limited, resulting in a return to homelessness. The likelihood of relapse and or additional mental health crisis are extremely high. Increasing our supportive housing options in the county will not only help reduce our chronic homeless population (long-term homeless with a disability) it will also help an extremely vulnerable portion of our population, are at high risk of repeat/chronic homelessness or potentially causing crisis in our communities that can result in injury or death.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent under one or more of the following criteria of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program: 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger
Member of Congress

CADR:lrb